

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 AGR-20 EB-11

ARA-16 /202 W

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R 301600Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0156

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1489

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PDEV PU

SUBJECT : GUINEA-BISSAU INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

REF: CONAKRY 1483

1. CONVERSAHONS WITH OTHER PERSONS WHO ATTENDED GUINEA-BISSAU INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PROVIDED FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OF INTEREST.

A. PRINCIPAL PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATIVE WAS MINISTER OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES WHO WAS GIVEN PLACE OF HONOR AND SPECIAL TREATMENT. SPEECHES BY PEREIRA AND CABRAL WERE IN PORTUGUESE WITHOUT TRANSLATION. WHILE THIS ACCEPTED AS FRIENDLY GESTURE TOWARDS PORTUGUESE, SOME DIPLOMATS WERE ANNOYED AT NOT KNOWING WHAT WAS SAID.

B. SOVIET CHARGE WHO INTRUDED HIMSELF ON EVERY OCCASION, ALSO STAYED ON IN GUINEA-BISSAU AFTER OTHER DELEGATIONS HAD LEFT.

C. DOUBTS WERE EXPRESSED THAT MADINA DA BOE WOULD REALLY
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BE MORE THAN SYMBOLIC CAPITAL IN VIEW ITS GENERAL ISOLATION AND

LACK OF COMMUNICATIONS. THERE WERE SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS THAT CITY OF BAFATA MIGHT BE CHOSEN AS CAPITAL IN ORDER TO SET UP INDEPENDENT IMAGE AND HAVE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGING NAME OF COUNTRY TO BISSAU. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT BISSAU WOULD BE CAPITAL AT LEAST FOR SHORT-TERM, SINCE IT IS ONLY CITY WITH ADEQUATE COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORTATION AND LODGING.

D. CUBAN AND BULGARIAN AMBASSADORS, RESIDENT CONAKRY, ALSO PRESENTED CREDENTIALS SEPTEMBER 24. AMBASSADORS OF SIERRA LEONE AND EGYPT, ALSO RESIDENT CONAKRY, ATTENDED CEREMONIES ON GROUNDS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS AMBASSADORS TO GUINEA-BISSAU, ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT YET HAVE LETTERS OF CREDENCE FOR PRESENTATION.

E. DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH GUINEA-BISSAU AUTHORITIES, IT WAS EVIDENT THAT MAIN INTEREST NOW IS IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, SPEECHES, ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CONAKR01489
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740276-0712
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974093/aaaaacok.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CONAKRY 1483
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : GUINEA-BISSAU INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
TAGS: PDEV, PU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005